

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

200 W. Washington, Suite 301  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
(317) 233-0696  
<http://www.in.gov/legislative>

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6764**

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 270

**NOTE PREPARED:** Dec 28, 2011

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** DCS Evaluation Committee and Ombudsman.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Yoder

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** ☒ **GENERAL**  
☐ **DEDICATED**  
☐ **FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State

STATE IMPACT	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
State Revenues			
State Expenditures		145,500	144,500
Net Increase (Decrease)		(145,500)	(144,500)

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill establishes the Department of Child Services Evaluation Committee to evaluate and make recommendations concerning the Department of Child Services (DCS). The bill provides that the Office of the DCS Ombudsman shall employ at least three full-time employees to assist the Ombudsman.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2012.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** *DCS Evaluation Committee:* The bill also establishes the DCS Evaluation Committee, which consists of 14 members (4 members of the Senate, 4 members of the House of Representatives, the DCS Ombudsman, 2 juvenile court judges, 2 child advocates, and 1 current or former foster parent). The Committee is required to study the DCS and report findings to the Legislative Council by November 1, 2013.

Under current law (IC 2-5-1.2-11), members of the DCS Evaluation Committee (lay members and members of the General Assembly) would be eligible for per diem, mileage, and travel allowances. These expenses

are to be paid from appropriations made to the Legislative Council and the Legislative Services Agency. Additionally, the Legislative Services Agency will provide staffing for the DCS Committee.

The increase in state expenditures to provide per diem, mileage, and travel allowances to members of the Committee are expected to occur on an annual basis. Legislative Council resolutions in the past have established budgets for interim study committees in the amount of \$9,500 per interim for committees with fewer than 16 members. Additionally, any increase in workload will be absorbed by existing Legislative Services Agency staff.

*DCS Ombudsman Staff:* Currently, the Department of Child Services Ombudsman currently employs one part-time employee (one full-time employee (FTE) is split between the Ombudsman and the Department of Correction). This bill will require the Ombudsman to, at a minimum, add 2.5 FTEs to receive, investigate, and attempt to resolve complaints made against the DCS.

Using the DCS Ombudsman's current expenditures on staffing, state expenditures are expected to increase in FY 2013 by approximately \$136,000. The estimated increase in expenditures includes salary, fringe, and other indirect costs for an additional 2.5 FTEs.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** DCS Ombudsman.

**Local Agencies Affected:**

**Information Sources:** Susan Hoppe, DCS Ombudsman.

**Fiscal Analyst:** Bill Brumbach, 232-9559.